Eagle Times

*Associated Press (AP)*

Eagle Statue Defaced!

Vandalism to the beloved eagle statue in front of the High School was discovered early yesterday morning by a custodian who was mowing the front of the “Y”. Upon closer inspection by the administration, the vandal left a note on the Eagle, written in dark black ink, which said

I can’t take this place anymore!

It appeared that a disgruntled teacher had something against the school and caused the vandalism. The custodian contacted Mr. Berger, who ordered an immediate investigation. The statue was smeared with suntan lotion, mouthwash, and soda. The site was secured and evidence was collected using vacuum, tape, and other forensic techniques before the start of HR that morning. Upon closer examination of the evidence, small white fibers and traces of an unknown white powder were also isolated from the crime scene. The evidence was packaged and sealed in appropriate containers and sent off to forensic labs for analysis.

Mrs. Matz, the only handwriting expert left in the English department because papers are all typed nowadays, analyzed the note. She concluded that she was unable to identify who had written it.

Later, in a public announcement aired on WGAL TV newscast, school administrators announced that several chemistry classrooms were now being transformed into crime labs for the investigation. Dr. Peter Schtur, director of the SIM mobile crime unit, will be assisting the forensic investigation. Dr. Schtur is noted as being one of the best forensic investigators throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

His notoriety includes solving a string of high profile crimes in the past few years. In a recent interview, Dr. Schtur stated that “based on the quality work that the NCIS teams have performed in the past, I have confidence that we will catch the culprit in record time”.

Dr. Peter Schtur, SIM director

Chemistry Rooms Used in Crime Investigation

BMHS Administration announced today that it plans to convert the current chemistry rooms to analyze the evidence found in connection with the vandalism crime.

The **mouthwash** collected at the scene will be analyzed using a gas chromatograph (GC). “Chromatography is a method of separation of a mixture in which the components are distributed between two phases, one of which is stationary, while the other moves in a definite direction. We plan to separate out the alcohol from the mouthwash and compare the results to the type found at the crime scene” stated Mr. Laughlin

**Small fibers** collected at the crime scene will be analyzed using Fournier Transfer Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. Since fibers only absorb energy at certain frequencies, they can provide a unique pattern or ‘fingerprint’ when analyzed through the entire infrared light spectrum. The fingerprint of the fibers found on the suspects can then be compared to the fingerprint found at the crime scene. Mr. Swan, who will be supervising the analysis, stated “based on the quality analysis that was conducted by the students earlier this year in the Significant Figures case, I am certain that this data will lead to determine who committed the crime.”

In a similar manner, the suntan lotion will be analyzed using UV spectroscopy, which uses a specific wavelength in the Ultraviolet part of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The soda sprayed over the office will be analyzed using High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). Dr. Schtur, advisor to the crime lab, explained, “HPLC works much like a GC, but the mobile phase includes a liquid instead of a gas. As the liquid moves through the column the components of the mixture get separated. A detector then shows the retention times of the components, making it easy for identification. Students should be able to narrow down the suspects fairly quickly.”

Suspects Named in Vandalism Case

In a statement made today by administration, the district was able to use surveillance cameras to determine six suspects in the vandalism case. Due to privacy issues, the district refused to release their names. Through special informants, the Eagle Times newspaper staff has determined the names of the teachers being investigated.

“I was in shock”, stated Mr. Brommer, when he heard a rumor that Mr. Swan was considered a suspect. “There is just no way. He loves teaching chemistry way too much!” On the day of the crime, sources revealed that Mr. Swan learned that he might be downsized due to state budget cuts and was very unhappy with administration.

Mr. Burcik claimed to be innocent, stating “I was in the nurse’s office during the morning of the vandalism”. The nurses office has no record of his visit. When questioned, Mrs. Thomas shared “teachers are not required to sign-in to the health room like students”.

Mr. Eckert, the self-proclaimed rebel of the faculty, was late to school the morning of the crime. Mrs. Linda Toth, secretary to the principal, indicated “Mr. Berger catches him roaming the halls all the time when he should be teaching classes.”

Mrs. Cryer, known throughout the region for her naturalistic abilities and talents, was at the Eagle statue the previous evening. Mrs. Hummel, fellow science teacher at the High School, stated, “Just because Mrs. Cryer was by the Eagle the night before doesn’t mean she did it. She was taking some measurements around the statue for an Environmental project.

Some student speculated that it actually was Mrs. Hummel. But green club leaders Julia & Havila, came to her defense. They said “Come on, Mrs. Hummel is a Green Club tree hugger! She has no violent tendencies whatever!”

The final suspect mentioned by our informants was Mr. Schoonover. Sources claim that he was planning on getting back at the high school for not getting enough support for the physics club.

Key Evidence Revealed

A key piece of evidence that might expedite the investigation includes the recovery of a mysterious white powder that was found on each of the suspects:

* Spilled athlete’s foot powder was found inside **Mr. Eckert’s** biology lab.
* **Mr. Burcik** was seen eating powdered doughnuts in the cafeteria that morning and powdered sugar was discovered on his desk in homeroom.
* **Mrs. Cryer** was found with benzoic acid, a white powder, in her possession. She claims it was used as preservative for his lunch.
* **Mrs. Hummel** had Tylenol, acetaminophen powder, in her purse.
* Contrary to his “tough guy” image, **Mr. Schoonover** crushes aspirin and mixes it with applesauce every morning, because he can’t swallow the pill whole. Traces of applesauce and aspirin were found in his desk.
* **Mr. Swan** is known to regularly frequent a local diner in the morning with fellow teacher, Mr. Brommer. His favorite drink? A cappuccino with an extra three packets of Nutrasweet. Two Nutrasweet packets were discovered around his desk on the morning of the crime.

The white powder evidence might be a valuable link to the culprit. Dr. Schtur, chief advisor to the SIM crime lab, stated that “the confiscated items and trace evidence has been kept secure and is scheduled to be analyzed by the labs during the week of May 15. I expect to have a conclusion as soon as possible and will keep you updated with a daily press release that will be posted on the classroom wikipages.” Students will be able to follow the results as they are processed by going to the Schoology website. (schoology.bmsd.org)

Data Analysis: Crime Scene Match?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Test/Suspect | UV/VIS | IR | GC | HPLC | MP |
| Burcik |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cryer |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eckert |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hummel |  |  |  |  |  |
| Schoonover |  |  |  |  |  |
| Swan |  |  |  |  |  |